

Fort Dobbs Gazette

Volume IV Issue I

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Division of State Historic Sites
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Western Regional Manager
Bob Remsburg

Fort Dobbs Historic Site
Beth L. Hill, Historic Site Manager
Matthew Keagle, Historic Interpreter
Barb Van, Administrative Assistant

National Workshop on French and Indian War: NC Dept. of Public Instruction, Fort Dobbs and French and Indian War 250th Inc. Partner to Host Workshop For NC Teachers

DPI, in connection with Fort Dobbs

State Historic Site and the French and Indian War 250th Inc. will host a workshop on the French and Indian War in Statesville on Friday, March 9th.

Kelli Thomas, Secondary Social Studies Consultant, initiated the partnership with the 250th Inc. and Fort Dobbs State Historic Site.

DPI is very excited about the opportunity to help teachers increase their content and knowledge of the French and Indian War and Colonial History. The first half of the workshop will be conducted by Jim Wetzler, National

Educational Advisor for the French and Indian

War 250th Commemoration. Jim is an interactive and engaging presenter and will explore the themes of economic interdependence, societal relationships, and leadership development. The second part of the day will include a program at Fort Dobbs Historic Site. Attendees of the workshop will receive educational materials, and a DVD of the PBS documentary, THE

WAR THAT MADE AMERICA as well as a membership to the Friends of Fort Dobbs.

For more information on the workshop contact the NC Department of Instruction, Kelli Thomas at thomas@dpi.state.nc.us or call 919-807-3828.



Ensign Fell, Maryland Historical Society,
Baltimore, Maryland, Clash of Empire
Catalogue

Dispatch from the Fort by Beth L. Hill, Historic Site Manager



At a recent meeting a community member asked why Fort Dobbs can't just stay the way it is. Let's consider the question why Fort Dobbs Road has not stayed the same? Why can't the community just stay the way it is or was 10 years ago, or 20 years ago? Despite all our desires to not change, change happens one way or another. The certainty is people change and communities change. As participants in the community we have the opportunity to shape the future.

In the case of Fort Dobbs, we have the opportunity to chart the future of our history and in doing so help chart our community's future. In the midst of suburban sprawl, major development and the age of mega-stores, we need to honestly ask ourselves what we value. Furthermore, we need to ask ourselves as a community what our obligation is to our history and future generations. We are the link to the past. It is a tremendous responsibility. Our history must be embraced and understood, not undervalued by lack of understanding. We need to ask how the site can be good stewards of the community. More importantly, the community needs to ask how they can be good stewards of the site and its significant history. BH

Master Planning Begins

With two public meetings complete and input from over 120 participants of their vision and concerns for Fort Dobbs, the master planning process is underway. The Division of State Historic Sites and Department of Cultural Resources has made clear its commitment to reconstruct the 1756 fortification. Fort Dobbs is one of 27 state historic sites and is the only site representing the French and Indian War.

The master planning will tackle issues such as preservation, development, programming, operations and partnerships. A strategic planning committee, including representatives from education, local neighbors, local government, civic groups, Friends of Fort Dobbs and staff members will develop

a plan that will chart the site's future. In addition, historians and archaeologists will provide consultation throughout the process.

Cool Spring Center President and Senior Facilitator Charles Page will moderate the planning process that is expected to last for several months. A graduate of Davidson College and UNC-Charlotte, Page has more than 33 years experience in facilitat-

ing and community work in the region. Page will compile the information collected into a report that will be submitted to the N.C. Division of State Historic Sites and the Department of Cultural Resources.



WAR FOR EMPIRE Scheduled for April 21st-22nd

Fort Dobbs highlights interpretive programming April 21st-22nd with the first of two major living history events. The April event, "War for Empire:1757," focuses on one of the most overlooked aspects of the French and Indian War: the war fought in the South. In 1757 the south was the focus of a major effort by the British to defend South Carolina against a possible French attack. The Southern theatre of the French and Indian War generally encompasses all the engagements fought from Pennsylvania South and includes some of the most significant engagements of the entire French and Indian war, including the battles that began it.

Did you know that British regulars from 6 different regiments fought in the Carolina's and Virginia during the war? Did you know that North Carolina soldiers fought alongside soldiers from Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware? Did you know that before 1758 the Cherokee were some of the most

important Indian allies the British could count on to fight the French? Come to Fort Dobbs April 21st-22nd to see a sampling of the Regulars, Provincial, militia, and native fighting men in the Southern theatre of the French and Indian War. Muskets and cannon will roar as this epic period in American history comes to life. Programs will feature Indian allies mustering, transportation in 18th century North Carolina, military medicine, as well as period music, drill, and military pageantry. The event will also feature a recreation of the 1760 attack on Fort Dobbs. Sutlers will sell a variety of period wares, such as 96 District Storehouse selling 18th century fabrics.

Friday April 20th will be a school day where hundreds of local school children will be able to learn first hand about life in the 18th century. Schools must register for participation in the April 20th programming. Visit fortdobbs.org or call 704-873-5882 for more information.



When it Was News 1757

April 7, 1757

The Pennsylvania Gazette

March 10. A Gentleman, who lives at the Yadkin, writes to a Friend of his here, of the 19th ult. "That 13 Catawba Indians, had just passed by there, from Fort Cumberland, with 4 French Scalps, which they got

with some others they had delivered to the Governor of Virginia in several Skirmishes near Fort du Quesne, and lost only two of their Men: That 17 compleat Catawba Warriors passed by his House the Day before, going to war against the French: And that they inform him, King Hagler was to follow them in a few Days with 100 more."



Photos From the Frontier



Provincial Soldiers fashion the fort's new flagpole.
Garrison weekend, December 10, 2006.
(Thank you to Eddie Johnson for supplying the pole)



8th Grade Students at Lakeshore Middle School practice firing in three ranks.
January 25th, 2007.



Dr. Ralph Bentley Speaks at the Candlelight Gala held by the Friends of Fort Dobbs, December 8th, 2006.



Third Creek Elementary students are taught the rudiments of 18th military drill at Fort Dobbs, November 29th, 2006



Cherokee ally prepares for war. December 10th, 2006.



Fort Dobbs garrison workshop, learning about the material culture of the Provincial Soldier. January 20th, 2007.



Interpreter Matthew Keagle, at the NC State Capital as part of the official announcement of "History Happens Here" by Secretary Lisbeth Evans, December 27th, 2006



Shadows of the Past, Fort Dobbs garrison weekend December 9th, 2006.

Material Culture

“have been obliged to shift for the best”

Shelter for North Carolina Soldiers During the French and Indian War

Note: This month's article will examine not what the soldier carried but what protected him from the elements. North Carolina soldiers served British Arms for 8 years and during that time lived under a variety of shelters, or lack of them.
MBK

When North Carolina began to mobilize soldiers for the coming conflict with France, they seemed more concerned with recruiting the men than with providing those men with the necessary equipment for the coming campaign. With the difficulties faced by North Carolina in procuring something as elemental as arms for their soldiers, it should not surprise us that they had some trouble as well supplying shelter.

For European troops in the field in the 18th century a hemp or linen canvas tent was the primary mode of shelter. This tent pitched in a steep A shape often with a bell or swell to the back was designed to fit a mess of soldiers. A mess containing 5 or 6 men was the smallest administrative unit in the military, and was how the men in the ranks lived. These mess-mates slept in their tent together, cooked their meals together, and ate from the same kettle. Soldiers slept perpendicular to the long side of the tent, often end to end, with their equipment and hats in the back of the tent.

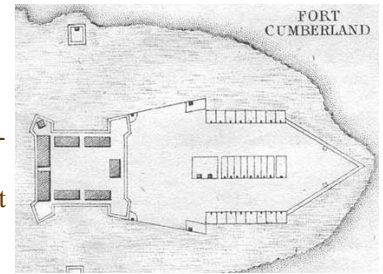


Two images showing the typical sleeping arrangements of a mess of men in a military tent. Top, British, 1731. Bottom, French, 1754.

When war broke out in 1754 the only British troops in the colonies, the Independent companies of New York and South Carolina, “were unprovided for anything for a march; they had no tents, Blankets, Knapsacks, Spatterdashes or Kettles...” Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia wrote to Matthew Rowan early in that year and informed him that, “We allow no Bedding to the Soldiers, but sent Tents with them; we are also deficient in them, but I propose having some made.” Virginia seems to have been able to procure some tents but it is unlikely that North Carolina was able to equip itself fully. For some time tents were not needed by the men as they sailed up the coast to Virginia, spending their nights aboard ship.

As the campaign of 1754 was under way however soldiers from North Carolina, and after the Regiment was disbanded, soldiers from Virginia and the Independent Companies began to construct the, “Log Fort, and... Magazine to receive 6 m's Provisions” that Governor Dinwiddie had or-

dered. This fort at Wills Creek in what is now Maryland was to be named Fort Cumberland and would act as an important base for coming campaigns against the Ohio valley. As part of this Fort, as at others across North America, barracks would be built to house the soldiers and alleviate the need for tents.



Fort Cumberland. Showing arrangement of barracks, storehouses and other buildings within the walls.

The difficulty of finding adequate shelter for nearly 400 soldiers in 1754 would not be experienced the following year. In 1755 the contribution of North Carolina was going to be much smaller, 2 companies, one of 100 men the other of 50. The company that sailed north to join Edward Braddock's army probably didn't need tents until they arrived with the main army, where they were likely able to find adequate tentage for the 72 men that Captain Edward Brice Dobbs could muster in June. By the end of the campaign the men of Capt. Dobbs' company had been left by the retreating regulars at Fort Cumberland that had been partially constructed by the North Carolina Regiment of the previous year.

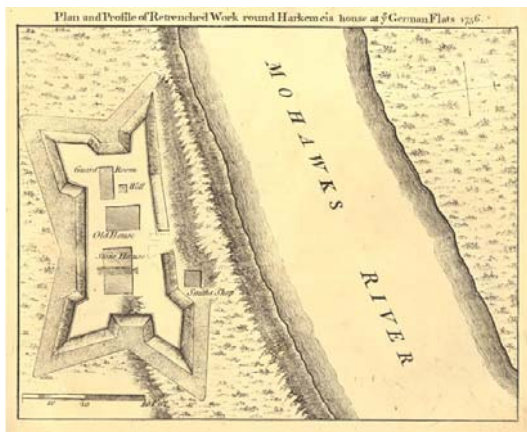
The other company, under Captain Hugh Waddell, which was sent to the Western frontier of North Carolina, fared differently. Part of their purpose in the West was to, “fix upon a proper and most central place for them to winter at, and erect a barrack, and afterwards if found proper there to build a fort” it seems that the initial sense of what became Fort Dobbs was as a barracks to provide shelter for the soldiers. As the winter of 1755-56 set on the soldiers may have made small cabins or they may have made simple shelters for themselves to protect themselves from the elements.

After the debacle on the Monongahela River in the summer of 1755, Arthur Dobbs pondered, and proposed a series of fortifications across North America. In his proposal he describes the method beginning work on a fort. “The first thing to be done is to make Log Houses for the Soldiers and to trase out and clear the Ground about the fort, and then to throw up some of the Fosse to form the Glacis and to fix the Palisades; and then after making a proper Barracks for the Officers to fall about raising the Body of the Fort.”

While the nature of the forts Dobbs described in his proposal were different than Fort Dobbs, it is very likely that the

same series of events was followed. That is the soldiers in Late 1755 may have constructed small log huts for themselves and then set to work using wood from the trees they felled to begin constructing an abatis (a hedge of sharpened tree tops) to surround the site of the fort and create a defensive perimeter.

By November of 1755 there were, "1000 lbs granted to build a barrack and fort for the Company on W. Frontier" With those funds Waddell's company would be able to begin construction on a more permanent structure than what it currently occupied. By July of 1756 Dobbs would report that, "We are also erecting a small fort upon or western or Indian Frontier where we have a company of 50 men." Once the fort was constructed the need for the huts was gone. There is archaeological evidence that suggests there was a small log building to the West of the fort that may have been a separate quarters for the Company's officers, similar to Dobb's description of a "Barracks for the officers."



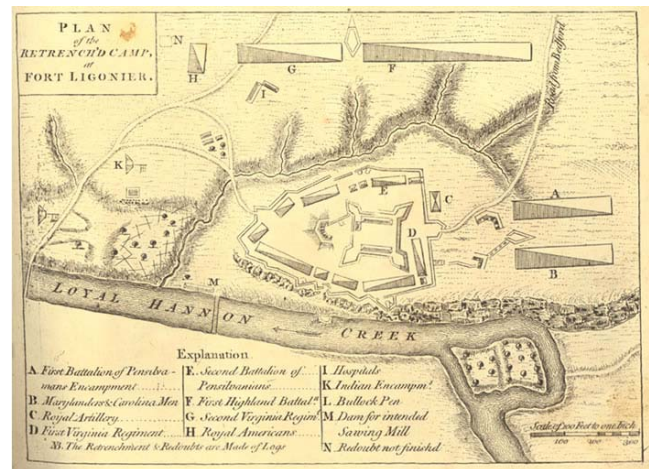
The Fort at German Flatts, 1756. Showing the old buildings converted to barracks that NC Troops under Major Edward Brice Dobbs occupied while in NY.

After 1756 North Carolina maintained garrisons in the colony at Fort Dobbs in Rowan County and Forts Granville and Johnston on the coast, all of which provided barracks to house the soldiers stationed there. The 4 companies of provincial troops bound for New York in 1756 were initially to, "encamp on Kennedy Island, to refresh themselves." By the middle of June they had left their encampment near New York City and, "Major Dobbs and his 200 North Carolinians, arrived safe at Albany" At the end of July it was reported that, "Majr. Dobbs is Posted at German Flatts in the way to Oswego" The fort at German Flatts contained barracks to house the companies of Carolinians who served in the North.

Until 1758 North Carolina troops served within the colony at one of the three posts manned by the Provincials, and were housed in those buildings. But when the campaign of 1758 began, the soldiers once again experienced the difficulties of campaigning and finding proper shelter. Waddell, now promoted to Major with command of 2 companies, sailed from the coast and arrived in Virginia only to find that, "The Arms tents Blankets Canteens &c, which were mentioned in my last Orders waiting here for me are not yet arrived, so have been obliged to shift for the best till they do."

While they were poorly equipped they seem to have been moved from fort to fort in Virginia, Maryland and finally Pennsylvania and housed in barracks within the Forts.

Andrew Bayley's company, marching overland from Fort Dobbs likely fared differently. They were marching through war torn country in Western Virginia. While they perhaps rested in some of Virginia's forts they were also likely to have slept out of doors. With the difficulty of finding adequate tents during the war, combined with the soldiers being used to having shelter at the fort, they probably were unprepared with tents for a long march.



Fort Ligonier on the Loyal Hannon Creek. This image shows the camp, outside the fort's walls, of the NC and MD troops, labeled letter B.

At various times during the war other soldiers without tents were forced to make shelter or take what they could get. Lord Loudon, the Commander in Chief for North America, described such an expedient in 1757 on cold snowy marches, "The method of lying on those Occasions is: as soon as you take up your Ground, they make Bush Tents of Pine Boughs, two opposite to each other, leaving a Space between them in which they make great Fires, and the men in each of the Tents lie with their feet to the Fires in which Situation they are tolerably comfortable." Perhaps Bayley's company from Fort Dobbs did something similar when they had to rest without the comforts of a structure nearby.

After the success of the campaign of 1758 North Carolina soldiers continued to live in barracks at the forts the Colony operated, until the cessation of hostilities with the Cherokee in 1761. While at these posts shelter was not an issue, but on the campaigns in between, when called to serve outside the colony, there was never any assurance of having a solid roof over their heads.

MBK

Fort Dobbs to Receive New Historic Marker

Those of you driving down Highway 21 in the past few months may have realized the old cast iron highway historical marker highlighting the site of Fort Dobbs has been missing for some time.

The marker was knocked off its mount and damaged beyond repair. It had been one of the oldest in the state still standing. Having been cast in 1936, it was however somewhat misleading. It incorrectly gave the date of construction as 1755, rather than 1756, only mentioned that it was built as protection from Indians, and never mentioned who built or occupied it.

The opportunity arose to re-word the sign to more accurately reflect the current knowledge and interpretation of the site... in all of 5 lines! The new sign is currently being cast and will read

FORT DOBBS

Built in 1756 by colony.

Was garrisoned by North

Carolina Provincials dur-

ing French & Indian War,

until 1762. Site 1 mi. N.

The new marker should be in place by early summer. It is hoped the newly cast marker will be up at least as long as the old one. Markers like this are often the first way people learn about a particular historical event or site, and this one will be no different. Despite the unfortunate loss of such a venerable historical marker there is hope for a new generation of passers-by to learn a little about Fort Dobbs. The North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program is administered by the Office of Archives and History. For more information on North Carolina Highway Historic Marker Program visit ncmarkers.com.

**Would you like Fort Dobbs staff to do a program
for your group or school?**

**Contact Fort Dobbs State Historic Site to
schedule your program today!**

SCOUTING THE FRONTIER

Saturday, March 3rd, 10-4pm

Sunday, March 4th, 1-4pm

FORT DOBBS LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND

Clash of Empires Exhibit

"Clash of Empires: The British, French and Indian War, 1754-1763" opened its doors to visitors this past December in Washington D.C.. This exhibit is the first to comprehensively examine the French and Indian War, not just as a regional conflict but as a global war.

The exhibit initially opened at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA in May of 2005, after a run of almost a year it traveled to the Canadian capital of Ottawa to the Canadian War Museum. Finally in the winter of 2006 it began its final showing at the Smithsonian Institution's S. Dillon Ripley Center. Fort Dobbs Historic Interpreter, Matthew Keagle, and volunteer, Miranda Peters, were the only historical interpreters present at the opening ceremony for the exhibit's Washington run.

The exhibit contains artifacts covering the roles of the British, French, and Natives during this dramatic period in American history. The story of the French and Indian war is told through artifacts such as portraits, military equipment, firearms, weapons, clothing, medals, ceramics, and other period pieces gathered together from across the United States, Canada and Europe. Many of these artifacts have never been seen in this country before.

In addition to the artifacts noted historian, illustrator, and sculptor Gerry Embleton created 8 life-sized figures depicting important themes or incidents from the War, including a black soldier with the Massachusetts provincials, a

defeated French officer and a British-allied Indian warning the French. The exhibit examines the war in its global context and while it focuses on the war in America it discusses the conflicts fought in Africa, Asia, Europe, the West Indies and elsewhere during the period 1754-1763. Explaining how Britain's victory in the

French and Indian war was not simply limited to this continent.

Matthew Keagle, Fort Dobbs Historic Site Interpreter, provided the guests, donors, and supporters of the Smithsonian and the Heinz History center with a unique compliment to the static displays. He was able to connect the physical objects on display to their greater importance. Matthew ensured that North Carolina's role in the French and Indian War was not to be forgotten in our nation's capital.

Many thanks to Scott Stephenson the curator of the wonderful exhibit which now runs until July 15 of 2007 at the Smithsonian Institution's S. Dillon Ripley Center, International Gallery.



Mr. Keagle performing 1750's military drill in the Smithsonian Institution's Ripley Center International Gallery

FRIENDS OF FORT DOBBS ROLL CALL

The Friends of Fort Dobbs supports the mission of Fort Dobbs State Historic Site:

"To preserve and interpret the history of North Carolina's only French and Indian War fort site to all citizens and visitors."

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Major: \$1000

Society of Colonial Wars, NC
James & Brenda Vernon, Statesville, NC

Captain: \$500

Andy & Margaret Broughton,
Barnardsville, NC
Peggy Willhide, Statesville, NC

Lieutenant: \$200

Steven & Konni Bell, Statesville, NC
Tom Kluwin, Annandale, VA

Sergeant: \$100

Barry & Anna Gordon, Statesville, NC
Saul M. & Gene Gordon, Statesville, NC
Dick & Kathi Rankin, Statesville, NC

Corporal: \$50

Kenneth & Carolyn Shaner, Statesville, NC

Sentinel: \$20

Hugh & Emily Ervin, Statesville, NC
Gary May, Du Bois, PA
Flake & Cummins Sherrill, Statesville, NC
Jim & Andrea Shipley, Denver, NC

Cadet: \$10

Owen David Bandy, Huntersville, NC
Marshall Clayton Payne, Charlotte, NC
Sydney Elizabeth Payne, Charlotte, NC
Suzanna Margareta Payne, Charlotte, NC
Isaac Pope, Statesville, NC
Zachery David Pope, Statesville, NC



GL WILSON GRANT RECEIVED

Thank you to GL Wilson for a recent grant of \$2,500 for educational programming at Fort Dobbs. The GL Wilson Foundation grant will allow Fort Dobbs the resources for more active interpretation of the fort's daily life and begin the interpretive process of preparing logs for construction and building the fort's defenses.

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS!

Major: \$1,000

David & Gail Pope, Statesville, NC

Captain: \$500

Jerry & Becky Hill, Statesville, NC

Lieutenant: \$200

Ralph & Caroline Bentley, Statesville, NC
Ken & Toni Conger, Statesville, NC
Paul & Mary Gilbert, Statesville, NC
Jim & Lynn Lawton, Statesville, NC
Randy & Pat Pope, Norwood, NC

Ensign: \$150

David & Sally Parker, Statesville, NC

Sergeant: \$100

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Jamie D. Stimson, Statesville, NC
Harry & Bobbi Tsumas, Statesville, NC

Corporal \$50

Jesse & Christie Barker, Statesville, NC
Leo & Carla Hearst, Statesville, NC
Bob & Mary Ann Hill, Glen Alen, VA
Jim & Re Johnston, Statesville, NC
Costi & Teresa Kutteh, Statesville, NC
Bob & Pam Stamey, Statesville, NC

Sentinel: \$20

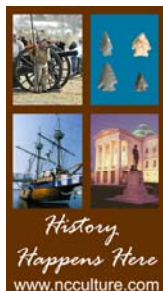
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Friends of Fort Dobbs

PO Box 241

Statesville, NC 28687

The Friends of Fort Dobbs welcomes additional tax-deductible contributions. For giving memorials, honoraria or matching gifts from employers, call the Friends of Fort Dobbs, at 704-873-5882 or e-mail at info@fortdobbs.org

Your membership benefits include:

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Quarterly newsletter

Invitation to annual membership dinner

And more.....